

**August 20, 2023**  
An Ecumenical Service

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (Psalms 34, 84; John 6:56-69)

Leader: How lovely is God's dwelling place.

**People: Our souls yearn for God's presence.  
Our hearts and our flesh cry out for the Living God.**

Leader: The Mighty One is a sun and a shield. God bestows favor and honor.

**People: We seek God and God answers us. God delivers us from our fears.**

Leader: Come into God's house. Here, even a sparrow finds a home.

**People: Even the sparrow has a nest near God's altar.**

Leader: Come all of you who thirst, all you who are heavy laden. Come take refuge here.

**\*Hymn #28:** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**\*A Time of Greeting** – Please take a few moments and look around, greet one another as a way to be a blessing to one another.

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-13; Psalm 133 Louise Piper

**Special Music** Jan Derry & Jim Miers

**Time With Young Disciples**

Words from Sam Goldwyn, who in 2021 was a rabbinical student, about the Blessing of the Trees.

**Sermon:** "Worth Clapping About"

**\*Hymn #558:** "O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

**Prayer Response**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.**

**\*Time of Dedication**

*As the organist plays music, please follow the pastor outside to the site of the cedar tree that has been planted in memory of Rabbi Cohen. There Rev. Dan Hamlin, our former pastor of this congregation, will share some stories of ways Rabbi Cohen was important to this congregation. After that Rev. Clara Young will offer a prayer of dedication and our benediction.*

*From there we will go to the Social Hall and enjoy each other's company.*

**At the Tree Site**

Words from Rev. Dan Hamlin, Pastor Emeritus, Greenbelt Community Church UCC

**Prayer of Dedication**

This morning, August 20, 2023, we dedicate this cedar in memory of Rabbi Jonathan Cohen. May it grow strong like the friendship of our two congregations. May its normal process of intaking what it needs in air and releasing what we need be as mutually beneficial as the life-affirming mutual exchanges between Rabbi Cohen and Greenbelt Community Church. May it grow tall and serve as a witness to all Rabbi Cohen meant to Greenbelt – a blessing for all. And may our two congregations continue to grow in mutual respect and ministry.

**Benediction**

Go in peace, my friends. Celebrate the wonders of creation and know that in all the seasons of our lives, the One we name Holy is with us. Listen to the songs of the waves and hymns of the trees. Touch the earth with love and respect. May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in the world. Our service is ended, our service begins. Amen.

*You are invited to the Social Hall for refreshments and conversation.*